(c) the target set to extend the facility to all the Express and Mail Trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The satellite based telephone services have been made available in Rajdhani Express trains running between Mumbai and New Delhi. The call charges are Rs. 126/- per minute for Inland calls i.e. calls within India and Rs. 162/- per minute for all International calls. These charges have been fixed provisionally.

(b) The amount payable by the Railways to Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. is Rs. 120/- per minute for the Inland calls and Rs. 150/- per minute for International calls.

(c) These services are planned to be extended to all the Rajdhani Express Trains by the end of 1997-98. Its extension to all the Express and mail Trains would depend upon the success and popularity of the scheme in Rajdhani Express and logistic problem of providing the service in these trains.

IPWEI technical papers on train accidents

*284. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor quality of inspection and maintenance of tracks accounts for forty percent of rail accidents;

(b) the action taken by Government to improve quality of inespction and maintenance of tracks;

(c) whether the Institute of Permanent Way Engineers India (I.P.W.E.I) has presented to the Government 25 technical papers and also suggested various measures to prevent rail accidents mainly due to poor quality of inspection and maintenance; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to implement the said recommendations of I.P.W.E.I. India?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) For improved maintenance and inspection of track, machines are being increasingly used progressively.

Track renewals are being carried out with modern track structure, using heavier long welded rails, concrete sleepers and track laying work is being progressively done by machines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendations are reiteration of the existing instructions and directives in regard to good maintenance practices, which were highlighted during discussions of the technical papers. All the delegates present during the Seminar from the Railways were advised to ensure their implementation.

Review of achievements of Primary Education

*285. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the achievements of the primary education in the country during 1995 and 1996 as against the projection has been made by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for shortfall in the primary education projections during 1996;

(d) the names of the State Governments which have shown unsatisfactory performance in the primary education programme; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to proceed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the National Policy on Education 1986, as modified in 1992, concerted efforts are being made by Central and State Governments to achieve the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education before we